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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/549,576 Confirmation No. 1291
Applicant(s) : Thomas BUCHBERGER et al.
Filed : November 17, 2006
TC/A.U. : 3753
Docket No. : R.304929
Customer No. : 02119

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b),
AND EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE OF THE CITED PRIOR ART**

Sir:

The undersigned hereby requests that the prior art cited on the attached prior art statement be placed of record in the application file and be considered by the examiner.

This citation of prior art is made under 37 CFR 1.97(b), since it is being filed before the mailing date of a First Office action.

The relevance of the prior art cited on the attached form PTO/SB/08a is as follows:

EP 0 241 952 A1

This patent shows a pressure relief valve comprising a valve body having inlet and outlet ports and a bonnet having a threaded projection which is received in a threaded bore in the valve body, the bonnet having a poppet guide bore extending into said projection from a bonnet end surface on the projection, and a poppet slidably guided between closed and open

positions for respectively closing and opening the inlet port, having first and second recesses extending into the projection from the bonnet end surface coaxially with the poppet guide bore, a seal ring is positioned in said first recess in surrounding sealing relationship with the poppet and a pushing retainer is secured in the second recess for retaining the seal ring in the first recess.

EP 0 305 177 A1

This patent shows a relief valve for low pressure operation includes a valve body having an enlarged cylindrical bore in alignment with an inlet port and defining a valve chamber. An outlet port opens laterally from the valve chamber. A seat insert is received in the bore and defines an axially facing raised seat circumferentially about the inlet port at a location closely adjacent the outlet port. A poppet valve member with a truncated conical configuration and a maximum outer diameter only slightly less than the inner diameter of the enlarged bore is mounted for engaging the seat and blocking flow through the inlet. A biased stem extends into the valve chamber in axial alignment with the seat. The stem has a cylindrical end portion which is received in a cylindrical opening formed axially into the poppet valve member on the end thereof opposite the seat insert. The cylindrical end portion and the cylindrical opening are sized to permit lateral shifting and alignment of the poppet valve member relative to the seat while preventing excessive and unwanted tilting of the poppet valve member relative to the bore.

DE 1 148 511

No abstract available for this patent. It is cited to show state of the art.

DE 28 18 581 A1

No abstract available for this patent. It is cited to show state of the art.

DE 31 48 454 A1

This patent shows a "snap action" early warning bypass valve assembly, responsive to fluid pressure differentials and/or low pressure, functions as both an electrical switch to provide an indication of low pressure or an impending fluid bypass and as a mechanical valve to actually implement the fluid bypass. The valve assembly includes a sealing piston supported by a retaining surface having a central bore formed therein. The sealing piston contains a bypass aperture and is shaped to present a differential sealing area to fluid circulating within the central bore. A spring-biased bypass disc covers the bypass aperture to present a central sealing area to fluid within the central bore. A first pressure differential acting simultaneously across the central and differential sealing areas forces piston into contact with an electrical terminal pin thus energizing an alarm circuit. A second, greater pressure differential acting across the central sealing area alone pushes the bypass disc away from the bypass aperture to complete the bypass operation. A low pressure sensing means including a low pressure piston biased to a no alarm position by spring and to an alarm position by spring is responsive to fluid pressure in a bypass conduit below a predetermined level to energize the same alarm circuit.

Application No. 10/549,576
Prior to First Office Action

DE 87 11 115 U1

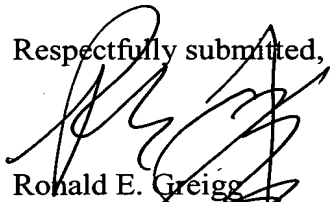
No abstract available for this patent. It is cited to show state of the art.

DE 196 04 889 A1

This patent shows a hydraulic pressure limiting valve has an insert that is set into the housing and has a moving valve part that is spring loaded. The valve action is provided by a ball that locates against a seat on the insert. The insert is produced with a section of slightly greater diameter than that of the main body and has a groove at change over. As the insert is located metal deformation occurs and this creates a retaining ring.

Examination of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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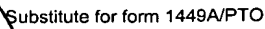
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Date: January 24, 2007

Customer No. 02119

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Enclosures
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|------------------------|--------------------------|
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| Filing Date | November 17, 2006 |
| First Named Inventor | Thomas BUCHBERGER et al. |
| Art Unit | 3753 |
| Examiner Name | |
| Attorney Docket Number | R.304929 |

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|------------|--|
| Date | |
| Considered | |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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